

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee (DAT)**  
November 18, 2014 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014,  
at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT  
Cheryl Anderson, Chair  
Denise Heap  
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT  
Karen Frias-Long  
Lu Ann Schmidt

STAFF PRESENT  
Tammy Albright  
Andrea Alicoate  
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 DAT meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 DAT meeting minutes, Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear a presentation and discuss housing opportunities provided by the City of mesa for people with disabilities.

Ms. Albright, City of Mesa Housing and Community Development Director, provided information on how the department accommodates and provides opportunities for people with disabilities. First, Ms. Albright explained that ADA is a subgroup of Fair Housing for HUD purpose. To meet the requirements they have posters placed in major customer areas, have brochures in the lobby, are currently working on a new web page, and have the logos and note fair housing on all their correspondence. The Diversity Office also keeps a log and refers ADA complaints to the Attorney General Office. Ms. Albright explained that they have outline the process for reasonable accommodation requests and process as part of our HCV program, in which they have noticed an increase in requests. The Housing and Community Development department has participated in the funding for many low income tax credit projects, in which they confirm ADA and 504 requirements on all housing construction projects using the federal funds. The Building Permits department also confirms ADA and Fair Housing requirements during the permit process.

Ms. Albright stated that they funded Arizona Bridget to Independent Living (ABIL) who provides accessible improvements for renters (CDBG funds for \$70,400). They also funded a rehab program that provides accessible improvements for homeowners (CDBG funds for \$650,000, but only part is spent on accessible conversions and that depends on requests). MARC Community Resource, Inc. also received funding to remodel 6 units which are completely accessible. Some funding was provided to Accessible Spaces to create "Mesa Supportive Housing", which is a 16 unit rental project located at 1140 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, to assist with both physical and mental disabilities (HOME funds approximately \$600,000). Community Legal Services received funding for the "Mesa Tenant's Rights Hotline" (General funds for \$40,000), which can be used to understand tenant rights. Finally, funds are also provided to Community Legal Services for the "Removing Barriers to Justice" (General funds for \$45,000), which is available to assist with resolving issues.

Ms. Albright concluded by stating that they are planning a Fair Housing Conference in April. The department used to hold a similar event in past years but it was eliminated due to funding. They feel that it was a very beneficial resource so they are electing to bring it back. This will also tie in with the Fair Housing Month proclamation that they are planning to have approved by the Mayor for the month of April.

5. Hear, discuss and take action on planning for town hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Anderson advised that representatives from Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care are willing to partner with them on the Town Hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues. The first meeting has been confirmed for Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Marc Community Resources, Inc. DAT members agreed to create an Eventbrite listing to incorporate on marketing materials that staff will design. Ms. Anderson stated that she will work on more details to provide an update at the next meeting.

6. Hear and discuss the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

Ms. Anderson stated that Dr. Michael Franczak, Chief Operating Officer of Behavior Health Services, from Marc Community Resources, Inc. has confirmed to present on the matter at the board meeting in January. Mr. Tompert stated that after hearing this presentation, they should plan on inviting Mesa Police representatives to also speak on the need and their current protocols when dealing with citizens with psychiatric needs.

7. Hear and discuss ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

DAT members are awaiting a response from City Council on their Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens Report recommendations, but wish to keep the item on their agenda and open for discussion for the future.

8. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:00pm.
- Future Agenda Items:
  - Monitor the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, and/or are homeless. (Tentative for January)

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator